

Application No. 10/734,257
Attorney Docket No. 3722/0173P
Response to Office Action dated March 18, 2008
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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 to 10 remain in the application. The allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. In particular, the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2 to 4 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable. Likewise, claims 3 and 4 which depend from claim 1, are also allowable.

Newly Added Claims

Applicants have now added new claims 5-10. Claim 5 is similar to claim 1 in that the preamble and the first two paragraphs are the same. Further, claim 5 includes a paragraph describing the de-multiplexer which is similar to the new paragraph in claim 1. The paragraph describing the sample-and-hold circuits has been modified and placed in claim 5 also. The paragraphs related to the speakers and the controller have not been included in claim 5.

Applicants submit that claim 5 is allowable for reasons already noted by the Examiner. The Examiner has given the reason for indicating that claim 2 is allowable as the de-multiplexer coupled to the digital-to-analog converter. Claim 5 now includes these limitations. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 5 is allowable.

Claims 6 to 10 which depend from claim 5, are likewise allowable. Further, it is noted that claims 8 and 9 are similar to claims 3 and 4.

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Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Matsumi (U.S. Patent 5,059,872). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants note that claim 1 has now been amended to include the allowable limitations of claim 2. Since this rejection was not applied against claim 2, Applicants submit that claim 1 now overcomes this rejection.

CONCLUSION

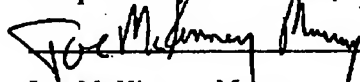
Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. A PTO-2038 form providing the necessary fee of \$120.00 is attached.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Joe McKinney Muncy, Applicants' Attorney, at 703.621.7140 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Date: July 17, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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